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**WHISTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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# **ANNUAL REPORT**

by

**F. W. BUNTING, M.B.E., M.D., D.P.H.**

**Medical Officer of Health for the Whiston Rural District**

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**FOR THE YEAR 1961**



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## WHISTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

*The Chairman and Members of the  
Whiston Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the health of the Whiston Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1961.

I am happy to report that the health of the community has remained satisfactory during the year.

The adjusted death rate was 12.0 per thousand which is identical with that for England and Wales.

The adjusted birth rate of 18.4 shows a reduction compared with the previous year and is slightly higher than the rate for England and Wales which is 17.4

The infant mortality rate shows a marked reduction, being 19.9 per thousand live births compared with 27.6 during 1960. The rate for England and Wales was 21.4

I am happy to report that there were no maternal deaths notified during the year.

During the year 483 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified and of these 393 were cases of Measles.

14 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified compared with 15 during the previous year. There was only 1 death and no cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified.

No cases of Diptheria or Poliomyelitis were notified.

The demolition of unfit houses continued, details of which are included in the section of the report concerning housing.

The conversion of privy middens continued during the year and only 6 remain to be dealt with.

The survey in connection with the declaration of a Smoke Control Area continued in the Parish of Halewood and preparations made in readiness for submission to the Ministry.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Health Committee for their support and encouragement during the year, and also to the Officials of the Council, in particular Mr. Corscadden, the Chief Public Health Inspector, for their assistance at all times.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

F. W. BUNTING.

# WHISTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## Public Health Department

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*Officers :*

Medical Officer of Health  
F. W. BUNTING, M.B.E., M.D., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector ... .. H. CORSCADDEN

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## ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1961

### GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of the District in acres	....	....	....	....	....	23,750
Population at Census—1961	....	....	....	....	....	44,126
Registrar General's estimate of home population—mid 1961	....					43,800
Density of Population (i.e. number of persons per acre based on mid-year population)	....	....	....	....	....	1.84
Number of inhabited houses (1961 Census)	....	....	....	....		12,508
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1961 according to rate book)						12,773
Rateable Value	....	....	....	....	....	£537,669
Sum represented by a penny rate	....	....	....	....	....	£2,353

### EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

#### Live Births—

Males: 434	Females: 372	....	....	....	....	806
Rate per 1,000 estimated population	....	....	....	....	....	18.4
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	....	....				2.8

#### Still Births—

Males: 7	Females: 7	....	....	....	....	14
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	....	....	....	....	....	17.1

Total Live and Still Births .... 820

Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year) Male: 7 Female: 9 .... 16

Infant Mortality Rates—

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	....	....	19.9
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	....		17.9
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births			86.9
Neo-natal mortality (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	....	....	18.6
Early neo-natal mortality (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	....	....	17.4
Perinatal mortality rate (still births and deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live and still births)	....	....	34.1

Maternal Mortality including abortion—

Number of deaths....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	....	....	....				Nil

Deaths—

Males: 203	Females: 265	....	....	....	....	....	468
Rate per 1,000 population—Crude		....	....	....	....	....	10.7
	Adjusted	....	....	....	....	....	12.0
Excess of births over deaths	....	....	....	....	....	....	338
Death rate from influenza per 1,000 of the population	....	....					.04
Death rate from cancer per 1,000 of the population	....	....					1.76
Death rate from respiratory tuberculosis per 1,000 of the population	....	....	....	....	....	....	.02
Death rate from measles per 1,000 of the population	....	....					Nil
Death rate from whooping cough per 1,000 of the population	....						Nil
Percentage of total deaths occurring in Hospitals etc.	....	....					63.56



CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1961—

Causes of Death	TOTAL	Under 1 yr	1-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs.	25-44 yrs.	45-64 yrs.	65-74 yrs.	75 yrs and over
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Others) ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease ....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Diphtheria ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ....	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasms—									
Stomach ....	9	—	—	—	—	2	3	2	2
Lungs, bronchus ....	12	—	—	—	—	1	3	7	1
Breast ....	12	—	—	—	—	2	4	4	2
Uterus ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ....	43	—	—	1	—	3	20	10	9
Leukaemia ....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Diabetes ....	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Vascular lesions—									
nervous system ....	49	2	—	—	—	—	10	16	21
Coronary disease, angina ....	32	—	—	—	—	2	9	11	10
Hypertension with heart disease ....	18	—	—	—	—	—	3	7	8
Other heart diseases ....	67	—	—	1	—	4	23	11	28
Other circulatory diseases ....	54	—	—	—	—	—	11	13	30
Influenza ....	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Pneumonia ....	58	1	1	—	2	5	10	16	23
Bronchitis ....	29	1	—	—	—	—	10	13	5
Other diseases—									
respiratory system ....	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ....	5	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ....	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis ....	8	—	—	1	—	2	4	1	—
Hypertension of prostate ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital malformation	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other defined and ill defined diseases ....	42	11	—	—	—	2	5	8	16
Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	6	—	—	—	1	2	2	1	—
All Other Accidents ....	14	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	10
Suicide ....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Homicide and War ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ....	472	16	2	5	4	29	124	125	167

**DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM—**

The following table shows death rates per 1,000 of the population from diseases of the respiratory system which occurred in the Rural District, together with corresponding data for England and Wales.

Diseases	Whiston R.D.	England & Wales
Influenza ....	.04	.15
Pneumonia ....	1.32	.63
Bronchitis ....	.66	.68
Other diseases of respiratory system	.07	.12
Cancer of lung and bronchus ....	.27	.49
Respiratory tuberculosis ....	.02	.065

**CAUSES OF ACCIDENTAL DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS—1961**

	Under 1 yr.	1—4 yrs.	5—14 yrs.	15—44 yrs.	45—64 yrs.	65—74 yrs.	75 yrs. and over	All Ages
Road traffic accidents ....	—	—	—	3	2	1	—	6
Falls ....	—	—	1	—	1	—	10	12
Works accidents ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Drowning ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Burns ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other accidental deaths ....	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
TOTALS ....	—	—	1	4	4	1	10	20

**INFANT MORTALITY—**

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity ...	10	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	10
Congenital malformations ....	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Post natal asphyxia and atelectasis ....	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia ....	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Birth injuries ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gastro enteritis ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haemolytic diseases of newborn ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other diseases ....	2	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	3
TOTALS ...	14	1	—	—	15	—	1	—	—	16

## VITAL STATISTICS

The following figures based on the Registrar General's 1961 birth and death returns, together with case rates for certain infectious diseases for England and Wales are shown together with corresponding data in respect of the Whiston Rural District.

	England and Wales	Whiston R.D.
	Rate per 1,000 population, mid 1961—46,166,000	Rate per 1,000 population, mid- 1961—43,800
<b>Births :</b>		
Live births ....	17.4	18.4 (c)
Still births ....	18.7 (a)	17.1 (a)
<b>Deaths :</b>		
All causes ....	12.0	12.0 (c)
Tuberculosis (all forms) ...	0.072	.02
Respiratory ....	0.065	.02
Non-respiratory ....	0.007	Nil
Cancer (all forms) ....	2.16	1.73
Lung and bronchus ....	0.49	.27
Other cancer ....	1.67	1.46
Maternal mortality (total) ...	0.33 (a)	Nil (a)
Maternal causes ....	0.27 (a)	Nil (a)
(excluding abortion)		
Due to abortion ....	0.07 (a)	Nil
Infant mortality ....	21.4 (b)	19.9 (b)
Neo-natal mortality ....	15.5 (b)	18.6 (b)
<b>Notifications (Corrected) :</b>		
Typhoid Fever ....	0.002	Nil
Paratyphoid Fever ....	0.005	Nil
Meningococcal Infection ...	0.014	.07
Scarlet Fever ....	0.433	.71
Whooping Cough ....	0.530	.18
Diphtheria ....	0.001	Nil
Erysipelas ....	0.048	.02
Smallpox ....	0.000	Nil
Measles ....	16.522	8.95
Acute Pneumonia ....	0.400	.18
(Primary and Influenzal)		
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	0.017	Nil
(Non paralytic) ....	0.004	Nil
Encephalitis (Infective) ...	0.003	Nil
(Post infectious) ....	0.003	Nil
Dysentery ....	0.442	.43
Food Poisoning ....	0.170	.04
Puerperal Pyrexia ....	0.181	.09
Tuberculosis (Respiratory) ....	0.416	.34
(Meninges and C.N.S.) ....	0.004	Nil
(Other) ....	0.055	

(a) Per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

(b) Per 1,000 related births.

(c) Adjusted rate.



**PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE—**

**(i) Notifiable Diseases during the Year.**

DISEASES	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria.... ....	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .... ....	31	5	—
Para-typhoid .... ....	—	—	—
Dysentery .... ....	19	6	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .... ....	4	4	—
Acute Pneumonia .... ....	8	5	7
Erysipelas .... ....	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .... ....	—	—	—
Enteric Fever .... ....	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ....	3	3	—
Measles .... ....	393	4	—
Whooping Cough .... ....	8	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis .... ....	—	—	—
Acute Polioencephelitis .... ....	—	—	—
Food Poisoning .... ....	2	1	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ....	14	3	—
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	—



(ii) Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified during the year—1961

AGE PERIOD — YEARS

Notifiable Diseases	Total Cases	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25 and over
Scarlet Fever ....	31	—	3	—	2	6	16	4	—	—
Whooping Cough ....	8	2	1	1	1	—	3	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(Paralytic) ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(Non Paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ....	393	21	53	61	55	44	151	8	—	—
Diphtheria ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ....	19	—	2	3	1	—	4	4	1	4
Meningococcal										
Infection ....	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Ophthalmia										
Neonatorum ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS....	454	24	59	65	60	50	174	17	1	4

	Total Cases	0-	5-	15-	45-	65 and over
Acute Pneumonia (Primary and Influenzal) ....	8	—	1	—	4	3
Smallpox ....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis						
Infective ....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post Infectious ....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas .. ....	1	—	—	—	1	—
Food Poisoning ....	2	1	—	1	—	—
Tuberculosis						
Respiratory ....	14	—	—	7	6	1
Meninges and C.N.S. ....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other ....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ....	4	—	—	4	—	—
TOTALS	29	1	1	12	11	4

TUBERCULOSIS

Details of cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease during 1961 will be found in the following table :—

AGE PERIODS (Years)	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4 ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—9 ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—14 ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—19 ....	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—24 ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—34 ....	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—44 ....	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—54 ....	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—64 ....	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over ....	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ....	6	8	—	—	1	—	—	—

WATER SUPPLIES.

The water supplies of the district are obtained from three main sources :

Liverpool Corporation	—	Upland surface water
St. Helens Corporation	—	Deep wells
Widnes Corporation	—	Deep wells

The development of the district resulted in extensions of the water mains throughout the district as follows :—

Liverpool Corporation	—	<b>To new Houses</b>
	—	2259 yds. of 6 in.
	—	5233 yds. of 4 in.
	—	288 yds. of 3 in.
	—	<b>To other development</b>
St. Helens Corporation	—	155 yds. of 15 in.
	—	150 yds. of 4 in.
	—	<b>To new Houses</b>
	—	742 yds. of 6 in.
	—	2310 yds. of 4 in.
Widnes Corporation	—	118 yds. of 3 in.
	—	90 yds. of 2 in.
	—	<b>To other development</b>
	—	541 yds. of 8 in.
	—	538 yds. of 6 in.
Houses connected to public mains	—	<b>To new Houses</b>
	—	300 yds. of 4 in.
	—	<b>To other development</b>
New houses :	—	540 yds. of 4 in.
	—	735.

The overall supply at the end of the year from public mains was to 12,767 houses serving an estimated population of 42,745, whilst 6 dwelling-houses received their supply from standpipes connected to the public main.

In the Parish of Halewood there has been some lack of pressure in part of the Parish and a new mains supply pipe is being constructed.

**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**

The Whiston—Prescot Brook, which receives surface drainage from Whiston and Prescot was piped during the year.

727 new houses built in the Rural District were connected to the sewage system during the year and 8 to approved septic tanks. The campaign to accelerate the conversion of privy middens was continued and the total has now been brought down to 6.

**CLEAN AIR.**

The work carried out by the three Schools within the area i.e. Notre Dame High School for Girls, Longview Secondary Modern School and Whiston Secondary Modern Boys' School continued, and the level of interest of the students was maintained.

It would appear that smoke control by condition of tenancy is proving to be quite successful and now that the first part of the Sugar Lane Estate is nearing completion it will be of interest to carry out observations in the future.

In the Halewood area the preparations for the declaration of a Smoke Control Area were continued in readiness for submission to the Ministry.

**PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT.**

The work of the full-time Rodent Operator continued and the following table indicates the number of inspections carried out.

TYPE OF PROPERTY			
		Non-Agricultural	Agricul- tural
		Dwelling Houses	
		All Other	
No. of properties in district	....	12,094	296
No. of properties inspected	....	165	41
Total inspections carried out	....	605	394
No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by :			
Rats	— major	2	41
	minor	13	—
Mice	— major	—	—
	minor	12	—
No. of infested properties treated	....	28	41
Total treatments carried out	....	27	180

The routine control work was maintained throughout the year and the number of rats kept to a minimum. The bi-annual treatment of the sewers in the district indicated that the rat population is being kept within reasonable limits.



During the year the usual varied complaints were received and included various types of insects found in the home, in Hospitals and business premises, as well as rats and mice.

**SCHOOLS.**

The total number of schools in the Rural District is 31 and whilst the majority are satisfactory in most respects some fall short by reason of the following :—

- Inadequate sanitary accommodation : 2
- Inadequate washing and drinking facilities : 5

**OFFENSIVE TRADES.**

The only offensive trade which exists in the district is that of a tripe boiler. Routine inspections show that the premises are kept in a satisfactory manner.

**HOUSING.**

735 houses were erected during the year and 24 houses demolished as unfit for human habitation.

During the year, 1,662 visits were made to 1,012 premises in connection with the Public Health and Housing Acts. 104 informal notices were served and 5 statutory notices.

**MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.**

These are concentrated on six sites. The main site comprises approximately 180 caravans and enjoys a high standard of amenities, including mains water supply, proper drainage facilities and communal sanitary blocks which also include bathing facilities. Regular inspections are made during the year.

**INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

During the year 421 visits were made to food premises. 177 contraven- tions were found to exist and 161 were abated during the year. 27 informal notices were served and 14 were complied with. The types of food businesses in the district are as follows :—

General grocers and provision dealers	....	....	77
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game, etc.)	....	....	15
Meat shops	....	....	16
Bakers and/or confectioners	...	....	7
Fried fish shops	....	....	8
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc.	...	...	23
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars, etc.	....	...	46
Others	....	...	7

The Public Health Inspectors continued their regular visits to the broiler house in Rainhill and it is pleasing to note that the standard of hygiene throughout the premises is being maintained at a high level. The following is the record of the total kill and number of birds condemned during 1961.

- 1,193,400 birds were killed and processed
- 3,400 birds were condemned (3.5% )



**SAMPLING OF MILK AND ICE CREAM.**

During the year 7 samples of "Pasteurised" milk were submitted to the Laboratory for the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase Test and 2 samples of "Sterilised" milk for the Turbidity test. 3 samples of Raw milk were submitted for the Methylene Blue and Tuberculosis test. 6 samples of Ice Cream were submitted to the Laboratory for the Methylene Blue test.

**SHOPS.**

15 inspections of shops under the Shops Act, 1950 were made during the year and all were found to be satisfactory.

**SLAUGHTERHOUSE.**

The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected and condemned at the licensed Slaughterhouse at Annexe Farm.

						<i>Cattle excluding cows</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed	....	....	....	....	....	39	14
Number inspected	....	....	....	....	....	39	14
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :</b>							
Whole carcasses condemned	....	....	....	....	....	—	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	....	....	....	....	....	2	3
% of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	....	....	....	....	....	5.13	57.14
<b>Cysticercosis :</b>							
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	....	....	....	....	....	1	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	....	....	....	....	....	1	—

The inspection and examination of food stocks during the year resulted in the condemnation of the following :—

<i>Type of Food</i>	<i>Total quantity of stock or consignment exam- ined and found unfit for human consumption</i>
Cooked Ham	96 lbs.
Tinned meat	2½ lbs.
Evaporated Milk	3 pints
Tinned Vegetables	4 lbs.
Tinned Fruit	65 lbs. 13 ozs.
Liver	10 lbs.

**PUBLIC CLEANSING.**

The refuse collection service has now been improved to provide for the regular weekly collection from all premises in the Rural District. All vehicles engaged on this work are of the modern enclosed type which reduces the nuisances which may be caused during collection to a minumim and also ensures the satisfactory transportation of the refuse to the disposal point. The condition of the main tip continued to be satisfactory and tipping proceeded without complaint from residents in the adjoining area.

## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959

### 1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	46	26	3	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	2	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>—</b>

### 2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ....	3	3	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ....	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ....	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ....	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ....	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) ....	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient ....	2	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ....	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ....	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ....	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ....	6	5	—	2	—





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